IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows. This listing of claims replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) A method for monitoring a manufacturing process of a plurality of physical objects, the method comprising:

automatically, without human intervention, carrying-out the steps-of:

performing an analysis <u>by means of an evaluation unit</u> using values of at least one process parameter of the manufacturing process of the plurality of physical objects;

determining that at least one physical object of the plurality of physical objects does not satisfy a prescribed selection criterion;

marking the at least one physical object in such a way that the at least one marked physical object must be sent for a special measurement; and

removing the at least one marked physical object from the manufacturing process.

- 2. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 wherein the physical object is a wafer.
- 3. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 wherein the analysis is a statistical analysis.
- 4. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 wherein the values of the at least one process parameter are measured when the plurality of physical objects is being manufactured.
- (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, further comprising:
 sending the at least one marked physical object for a special measurement.
- 6. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 5 wherein the special measurement is a measurement for checking the quality of the at least one marked physical object.

- 7. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, further comprising: continuing the manufacturing process for any of the plurality of physical objects not marked as failing the prescribed selection criterion.
- 8. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the selection criterion is a quality characteristic of the manufacturing process.
- 9. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the selection criterion is not satisfied if a value of the at least one process parameter goes above or below a prescribed limit value.
- 10. (Currently Amended) A device for monitoring a manufacturing process of a plurality of physical objects with a processor which is set up in such a way to perform method steps, the method steps comprising:

automatically, without human intervention, carrying out the steps of:

performing an analysis <u>by means of an evaluation unit</u> using values of at least one process parameter of the manufacturing process of the plurality of physical objects;

marking at least one physical object when, as a result of the analysis, the at least one physical object does not satisfy a prescribed selection criterion;

removing the at least one marked physical object from the manufacturing process; and

sending the at least one marked physical object for special treatments.

11. (Currently Amended) A computer-readable storage medium, in which a program for monitoring a manufacturing process of a plurality of physical objects is stored, the program performing method steps comprising:

automatically, without human intervention, carrying out the steps of:

performing analysis <u>by means of an evaluation unit</u> using values of at least one process parameter of the manufacturing process of the plurality of physical objects;

marking at least one of physical object when, as a result of the analysis, the at least one physical object does not satisfy a prescribed selection criterion;

removing the at least one marked physical object from the manufacturing process; and

sending the at least one marked physical object for special treatments.

12. (Currently Amended) A computer-readable medium comprising a computer program element for monitoring a manufacturing process of a plurality of physical objects, the computer program comprising:

automatically, without human intervention, executing the steps of:

performing an analysis <u>by means of an evaluation unit</u> using values of at least one process parameter of the manufacturing process of the plurality of physical objects;

marking at least one physical object when, as a result of the analysis, the at least one physical object does not satisfy a prescribed selection criterion;

removing the at least one marked physical object from the manufacturing process; and

sending the at least one marked physical object for special treatments.

13. (Currently Amended) A method for monitoring a manufacturing process of a plurality of physical objects, the method comprising:

performing an analysis <u>by means of an evaluation unit</u> using values of at least one process parameter of the manufacturing process of the plurality of physical objects;

determining that at least one physical object of the plurality of physical objects does not satisfy a prescribed selection criterion;

marking the at least one physical object in such a way that the at least one marked physical object must be sent for a special measurement;

removing the at least one marked physical object from the manufacturing process; and

preventing values associated with the at least one marked physical object from affecting an average product quality of the plurality of physical objects.

14. (Currently Amended) A device for monitoring a manufacturing process of a plurality of physical objects with a processor which is set up in such a way to perform method steps, the method steps comprising:

performing an analysis <u>by means of an evaluation unit</u> using values of at least one process parameter of the manufacturing process of the plurality of physical objects;

marking at least one physical object when, as a result of the analysis, the at least one physical object does not satisfy a prescribed selection criterion;

removing the at least one marked physical object from the manufacturing process;

sending the at least one marked physical object for special treatments; and preventing values associated with the at least one marked physical object from affecting an average product quality of the plurality of physical objects.

15. (Currently Amended) A computer-readable storage medium, in which a program for monitoring a manufacturing process of a plurality of physical objects is stored, the program performing method steps comprising:

performing analysis <u>by means of an evaluation unit</u> using values of at least one process parameter of the manufacturing process of the plurality of physical objects;

marking at least one of physical object when, as a result of the analysis, the at least one physical object does not satisfy a prescribed selection criterion;

removing the at least one marked physical object from the manufacturing process;

sending the at least one marked physical object for special treatments; and preventing values associated with the at least one marked physical object from affecting an average product quality of the plurality of physical objects.

16. (Currently Amended) A computer-readable medium comprising a computer program element for monitoring a manufacturing process of a plurality of physical objects, the computer program comprising:

performing an analysis <u>by means of an evaluation unit</u> using values of at least one process parameter of the manufacturing process of the plurality of physical objects;

marking at least one physical object when, as a result of the analysis, the at least one physical object does not satisfy a prescribed selection criterion;

removing the at least one marked physical object from the manufacturing process;

sending the at least one marked physical object for special treatments; and preventing values associated with the at least one marked physical object from affecting an average product quality of the plurality of physical objects.